

Chepachet Fire District

Executive Committee – Monthly Meeting

March 19th, 2014

The Chepachet Fire District monthly meeting was held at the Chepachet Fire Station on Wednesday, March 19th, 2014. Chairman Earl Newman called the meeting to order at 6:25pm. Members present were Lynda Martone, George Leonhardt and Eric Croft. Also present were Treasurer David Steere, District Clerk/Secretary Darlene Shields, Chief Robert Dauphinais and Deputy Chief Dennis Huestis. Absent are Robert Lohr and Patricia Svansson

Secretary's Report:

All members have received copies of the minutes for February 26th, 2014 of the Monthly Board Meeting.

Motion made by Mrs. Martone to accept the minutes as presented, second by Mr. Croft and passed 4-0.

VOTER YES NO Abstaining

Earl K Newman, Chairman X

Robert Lohr, Vice Chairman

George Leonhardt X

Lynda Martone X

Eric Croft X

Treasurer Report:

Mr. Steere presented the Treasurer's Monthly Reports for March 2014 and that we are $\frac{3}{4}$ through the Budget for this fiscal year. Mr. Steere stated that some of the expenses are over the 75% and some are under but the bottom line is we are at 65%.

Overall we are where we should be. Accounts on last page \$778,000 out that \$386,000 of that is unrestricted funds. Patty is still continuing to collect taxes. Third Party was \$6700.00 which is short for the month but February is a short month.

Motion made by Mrs. Martone to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented and to pay the monthly bills, second by Mr. Croft and Passed 4-0.

VOTER YES NO Abstaining

Earl K Newman, Chairman X

Robert Lohr, Vice Chairman

George Leonhardt X

Lynda Martone X

Eric Croft X

Chief's Report:

Chief Dauphinais read and submitted the February 2014 Chief's Monthly Reports to be placed on file.

Motion made by Mr. Leonhardt to accept the Chief's Monthly Report for February 2014, second by Mr. Croft and passed 4-0.

VOTER YES NO Abstaining

Earl K Newman, Chairman X

Robert Lohr, Vice Chairman

George Leonhardt X

Lynda Martone X

Eric Croft X

Committee: Charter Committee: Tabled

Mr. Steere made mention that the Town is doing a revaluation which may lower the assessment and that when Tax Warrant gets set we may need to watch the 1 Mil max that has been set in previous years. Review Charter to see if the charter has any restrictions as to the tax rate. Mrs. Shields mentioned that the Tax Warrant which is read at the Annual Meeting states the 1Mil limit. We need to see if the Charter or By-Laws and any limitations on the Tax Rate they may

need to be addressed.

Old Business:

1. Septic: Progeg: Chief mentioned that he did receive the permit back and next step it get a septic design down. This system is going to be based on a 4 Bedroom House system which should be sufficient what the current use is.

Tax Collector Patricia Svansson is in attendance at 6:30pm

Tax Collector's Report:

Mrs. Svansson stated not too much to report and has collected \$49,382.36 of February. 160 Warning letters we sent out last week and people are calling and money has started coming in.

Motion made by Mrs. Martone to accept the Tax Collector's Monthly Report, second by Mr. Croft and passed 4-0.

VOTER YES NO Abstaining

Earl K Newman, Chairman X

Robert Lohr, Vice Chairman

George Leonhardt X

Lynda Martone X

Eric Croft X

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Deputy Chief Review:

Mr. Newman asked Mr. Huestis if he wanted the meeting in executive session and Mr. Huestis is ok with having it now in open session. Chief Dauphinais said everything is status quo and things are working well. Mr. Newman asked if any board members had any questions – Mrs. Martone thanked Mr. Huestis and said he does a great job.

Mr. Newman made a motion to reappoint Deputy Chief Dennis Huestis to a 3 year term to expire in December 2016, second by Mr. Croft and passed 4-0.

2. RI Ethic Commission:

a. Mrs. Shields advised everyone that she had had a conversation with Jean Fecteau the Town Clerk regarding the RI Ethic Commission after having heard it was a discussion recently at a Town Meeting. Mrs. Fecteau mentioned that at a recent meeting with the state she

was told that this year, the state may be strict with penalties for those who file after the deadline or who don't file at all and that they may incur a fine. She advised Mrs. Shields that it would be best to bring to it everyone attention at our next monthly meeting. She also advised that if a penalty fee is charged for filing late or for not filing at all that it be discussed and decided upon who would be responsible to pay that fee.

Mr. Newman feels that if you are elected for a position and you understand that you need to file with the RI Ethics Commission that any penalties for either filing late or not filing at all would be that's person responsibility.

Mrs. Shields will clarify with the RI Ethic Commission regarding Deputy Chief as an appointed position if he needs to file.

Mrs. Shields also wanted everyone to be aware that she had not listed Tax Assessor James Chase due to recent changes is his living status and that until we hear otherwise we are assuming his position will be a vacant position.

Motion made by Mr. Newman that it's the responsibility of the individual who receive the request from the Ethics Commission to fill them out and return them in the proper time frame and in the event they don't and there are any fines that they are solely responsible for paying those fines, second by Mrs. Martone and passed 4-0.

VOTER YES NO Abstaining

Earl K Newman, Chairman X

Robert Lohr, Vice Chairman

George Leonhardt X

Lynda Martone X

Eric Croft X

NOTE: This is also a topic for the Charter Committee to review as to if this needs to be addressed as a possible charter change

3. Street Lights:

a. Mrs. Shields advised that she has submitted 22 lights to Nationalgrid for repair after Mr. Huestis and Mr, Rhodes went out and provided Mrs. Shields with a list of lights that were out. There a few more side streets to be checked and need to be submitted for repair.

The next meeting will be the Monthly Meeting April 16th, 2014 at 6:30pm.

With no further business at this time, motion made by Mr. Croft to adjourn, second by Mrs. Martone and passed 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 6:50pm.

VOTER YES NO Abstaining
Earl K Newman, Chairman X
Robert Lohr, Vice Chairman
George Leonhardt X
Lynda Martone X
Eric Croft X

Respectfully submitted, ~~~~~~
Darlene L Shields
Darlene L. Shields
District Clerk / Chepachet Fire District